New scheme to create telecom infrastructure in rural areas

*215 SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced a new scheme to fund operators to create telecom infrastructure for rural telephony in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the status of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) A proposal is under active consideration of the Government to provide support for sharable infrastructure for cellular mobile services in rural and remote areas of the country. The infrastructure to be supported may include tower, power backup etc. The details of the scheme are being worked out and the implementation will be taken up after a suitable amendment to the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 for which action has been initiated.

Appointment of additional judges to clear pending cases

†*216. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 300 additional judges in High Courts and 6,500 new judges in subordinate courts would be required to dispose off all pending cases in High Courts in next five years according to the Law Commission;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the number of judges required according to Government's estimate?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) No such recommendation has been received from the Law Commission. However, judge strength of the High Courts is reviewed every three years. The last review was undertaken in the year 2003 when 94 new posts were recommended. As an interim review, 4 posts of Judges were approved for the Bombay High Court in 2005, making the total for increase of 98 posts. The next review is due in 2006 for which the High Courts have been requested to furnish data.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.